

PATENT
Docket GE134523

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ching-Pang Lee et al)
Ching-Pang Lee et al)
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Application No.: 10/692,700)
Confirmation No: 9795)
)
Filed: 10/24/2003)
)
Title: Converging Pin Cooled Airfoil

Art Unit: 3745

Examiner: Kershsteyn, I.

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

1. MPEP 715.01(a) states that:

When subject matter, disclosed but not claimed in a patent or application publication filed jointly by S and another, is claimed in a later application filed by S, the joint patent or application publication is a valid reference ... unless overcome by ... an unequivocal declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 by S that he/she conceived or invented the subject matter disclosed in the patent or application publication and relied on in the rejection.

2. MPEP 716.10 states that:

Under certain circumstances an affidavit or declaration may be submitted which attempts to attribute an activity, a reference or part of a reference to the applicant. If successful, the activity or the reference is no longer applicable.

3. This Declaration under Rule 132 is being prepared in accordance with MPEP 715.01(a) and 716.10 to overcome U.S. Patent 6,832,889 entitled "Integrated Bridge Turbine Blade," by co-inventors Ching-Pang Lee, R.C. Haubert, and H.M. Maclin, and having a filing date of 07/09/2003, which patent is referred to herein as the First patent, and is being used by the examiner in the present, or Second, application to reject some, but not all, of the claims as being anticipated thereby.

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4. I, Ching-Pang Lee, am a co-inventor of the subject matter described and claimed in the Second application, entitled "Converging Pin Cooled Airfoil," with my two co-inventors being R.S. Bunker and C. Prakash.
5. I am also a co-inventor, along with R.C. Haubert and H.M. Maclin, of the subject matter described and claimed in the First patent.
6. The different and common subject matters of the First patent and Second application identified above were conceived and invented under a common gas turbine engine development program conducted by the General Electric Company under the same contract No. F33615-02-C-2212 for the U.S. Department of the Air Force.
7. The First patent includes Figures 1-5 and the Second application includes Figures 1-2 which illustrate similar features of the common turbine blade due to the common nature of the development program, which figures are suitably modified to illustrate at least two different inventions being differently recited in the corresponding claims of the First patent and the Second application.
8. I, along with co-inventors Haubert and Maclin first conceived and invented the combination of features disclosed in the First patent and specifically recited in the claims thereof for the turbine blade having integrated first, second, and third bridges 30,40,44 near the airfoil leading edge which forms the recited supply and louver channels 46,48.

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9. The portions of the First patent relevant to the Second application including the converging louver flow channel 48 and the mesh pins 54 therein originated with or were obtained from me, and are used in the First patent only as auxiliary features therein for the otherwise claimed integrated bridge turbine blade.
10. Correspondingly, the portions of the Second application relevant to the First patent including the integrated bridge features are used in the Second application only as auxiliary features therein for the otherwise claimed converging pin cooled airfoil.
11. I, along with co-inventors Bunker and Prakash, following conception of the invention claimed in the First patent, then further conceived, reduced to practice by model testing, and thereby invented the combination of features disclosed and claimed in the Second application including the converging first and second cooling circuits 32,34 and the array of conforming pins 44,46 in at least one of those circuits.
12. The Second application was therefore intended by me, and my co-inventors Bunker and Prakash, to disclose and claim a different invention than the First patent, notwithstanding the common subject matter thereof for the common development blade otherwise illustrated therein.
13. Accordingly, I hereby further declare that the common subject matter disclosed, but not claimed in the First patent, and later claimed in the Second application was conceived or invented by me and my co-inventors Bunker and Prakash as disclosed above, and is thereby

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correspondingly attributed to us in that First patent, and is not the invention of my co-inventors Haubert and Maclin therein; with the inclusion of that common subject matter in that First patent therefore being derived from me and my co-inventors Bunker and Prakash as disclosed above.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

clg-7 L

Ching Fang Lee

7-12-05

Date